

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 15169 271256Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 077315

O 271201Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6950

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15169

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, TH

SUBJECT : WITHDRAWAL OF STRATEGIC FORCES (U)

REF: A. BANGKOK 13782

B. BANGKOK 14037

C. SECDEF 8170

D. BANGKOK 14495

E. BANGKOK 15093

1. AS RESULT OF FIRST PHASE WITHDRAWALS, OUR EFFORTS TO BRING THAI ALONG WITH US, AND STRONG SUPPORT BY HIGH LEVEL VISITORS FROM WASHINGTON, RTG HAS FOR THE MOMENT RELAXED PRESSURE FOR FURTHER US FORCE REDUCTIONS (REF D). WE HAVE FELT WE COULD HOLD THIS LINE WITH RTG, BUT TOTALLY UNEXPECTED NEWS REGARDING B-52 REDEPLOYMENTS FROM GUAM (REF C) IS LIKELY TO REVIVE THE ISSUE, GENERATE NEW PRESSURES ON PRIME MINISTER, AND ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING US SINCERITY AND INTENTIONS. RTG KNOWS WE PULLED 15 B-52'S OUT OF GUAM LAST MONTH, AND HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT WHY AT LEAST SOME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM UTAPAO.

2. OUR MAIN PITCH TO THE RTG HAS BEEN THAT REDUCTION OF OUR STRATEGIC FORCES AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME WOULD GIVE WRONG SIGNAL TO HANOI AND REDUCE DETERRENT EFFECT OF OUR FRCES. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THAI TO UNDERSTAND WHY, IF THIS IS TRUE REGARDING US FORCES IN THAILAND, SAME

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 15169 271256Z

CRITERIA DO NOT ALSO APPLY TO US FORCES ON GUAM.

3. PRIME MINISTER THANOM DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF B-52'S OR US FORCE LEVELS WITH GENERAL VOGT SEPTEMBER 26 (REF E), AND SUBJECT HAS DROPPED FROM FRONT PAGES AFTER MONTHS OF HEADLINE STORIES. HOWEVER, THANOM HAS PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE RTG DEMAND FOR REDUCTION OF B-52'S IN THAILAND, WHICH WAS PRESENTED AS FORMAL RTG REQUEST AT LAST FORCE LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS SEPTEMBER 4 (REF A). UNILATERAL US DECISION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF B-52 MOVEMENTS FROM WEST PACIFIC AREAS OTHER THAN THAILAND, WITHOUT AT VERY LEAST HAVING GIVEN RTG LEADERSHIP CONVINCING ARGUMENT WHY WITHDRAWAL OF B-52'S FROM GUAM DO NOT RISK SAME DANGERS WE HAVE PORTRAYED IN WITHDRAWALS FROM THAILAND, MAY WELL APPEAR TO THAI AS CALCULATED DISREGARD OF CONCERNS AND FORMAL REQUEST THEY HAVE CLEARLY EXPRESSED TO US.

4. BELIEVE BEST WAY TO AVOID DANGER OF SETTING IN MOTION SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH COULD EASILY RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO KEEP HERE THE BASIC FORCES WE REQUIRE OVER THE LONGER RUN WOULD BE TO AUTHORIZE US ASAP TO INFORM THAI THAT US IS PREPARED TO REDEPLOY TDY B-52'S AND KC-135'S (ONLY 8 AND 4 AIRCRAFT RESPECTIVELY) FROM UTAPAO TO GUAM AS SOON AS FORMAL RTG AGREEMENT CAN BE ASSURED OR BY SOME SPECIFIED FUTURE DATE; WE WOULD TELL THAI THAT IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE ANNOUNCING REDEPLOYMENT OF B-52 AIRCRAFT FROM GUAM WHICH WILL MAKE ROOM FOR PLANES NOW BASED IN THAILAND. TO AVOID PROBLEMS WE FORESEE, THIS WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH RTG BEFORE RPT BEFORE WITHDRAWALS FROM GUAM ARE ANNOUNCED. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO15169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750011-1288
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973095/aaaaaddu.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 BANGKOK 13782, 73 BANGKOK 14037, 73 SECDEF 8170, 73 BANGKOK 14495, 73 BANGKOK 15093
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WITHDRAWAL OF STRATEGIC FORCES
TAGS: MARR, TH, US
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005